DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

VOL. IV NO. 1 JANUARY 7th 1955 Price: 15 Pf., 5 c., 3 d

PARLIAMENTS WARN:

"New Wehrmacht Means War in Europe"

The formation of a new Wehrmacht in West Germany was a direct threat to the peace of Europe, stated representatives of the parliaments of Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany at a conference held in Prague from December 29th to 31st.

The warning issued by this meeting stated in part:

"The Paris Agreements on the restoration of German militarism are opposed to the desires and the vital interests of the peoples. They run contrary to valid international treaties, and entail the danger of aggression on the part of German militarism.

"The peoples of our countries are convinced that the struggle against the Paris Agreements has not come to an end following the voting in the French Chamber on December 30th. They are convinced that the French people and the peoples of the other West European states will not give up the struggle against the agreements until they have won.

"The people of West Germany have a particularly important part to play in the struggle of the European nations for independence, liberty, peace and security. The opposition of all progressive and peaceable people in West Germany is steadily growing against the ratification of the Paris Agreements, and against the revival of German militarism.

"Security will be guaranteed for the peoples of Europe when instead of the formation of military groups of a few states directed against other states, a system of collective security is established including all European states without regard for their political or social order.

"The people of Czechoslovakia and Poland, the first victims of Hitlerite aggression, have a particular right and a particular duty to warn the peoples of Europe of the danger of the revival of aggressive forces in West Germany.

"The Polish People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Republic and the German Democratic Republic are directly menaced by the rebirth of a Wehrmacht thirsting for revenge. They are therefore determined to improve their cooperation in all fields, and to extend each other mutual aid.

"Our countries, like the other countries of the camp of peace, will not stand idly by and watch the revival of German militarism, this tool for the launching of a new war of aggression.

"In the case of the ratification of the Paris Agreements our peoples are determined to take all measures necessary to secure their independence, their peaceful work and achievments, and the inviolability of their frontiers and their territory.

"Every attempt made by the German militarists and their American protectors and other helpers to provoke war is doomed to failure. Our peoples are ready to defend their just cause against every attack, and will spare no effort to achieve a victory of the cause of peaceful coexistence and cooperation over the policy of war."

Nazis Wanted Nelson Column

New nazi documents, recently discovered, have thrown more light on what Hitler intended to do in Britain if the Wehrmacht had made a successful invasion during the Second World War.

SS troops were to be quartered in Oxford and Cambridge, and the Nelson Column from Trafalgar Square, London, was to be transported to Berlin. Read the full details on pages 2 and 3 of this issue.

Many of the nazi generals who would have carried out the invasion are back in leading positions in West Germany today: if the new West German Wehrmacht is finally formed it will be commanded exclusively by officers who held high positions under Hitler. For particulars about these officers, see pages 4 and 5 of this issue.

One of West Germany's military espionage chiefs has sought refuge in East Germany, and brought with him details of West German agressive plans. His statement is printed on page 6.

And finally "Berlin Notebook" on page 8 introduces you to some of the members of the West German Parliament, men who did nicely out of the last war and hope to do well out of the next.

IF THE WEHRMACHT HAD INVADED BRITAIN

What would have happened if the nazis had managed to invade and conquer Britain in 1940 or 1941?

Documents from the nazi archives give some of the answers. On the opposite page we reproduce pages 6 and 7 from a memorandum on the occupation of England, prepared by an SS officer Seibert. The first five pages of this document have not been located, but it is apparent from internal evidence that the document comes from the Munich branch of the SS.

This memorandum proposes that the Nelson Column in Trafalgar Square should be moved to Berlin as "an impressive sign of German victory", and that British museums and galleries should be looted.

Similar proposals were made in a letter from the Brunswick branch of the SS, addressed on November 11th 1940 to Section III of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Main Security Office of the SS) in Berlin. This letter too has been discovered in nazi files, and contains, in addition to details of material to be looted, a list of names of persons and firms in England believed to be "friendly to the German cause".

These and other documents which have been recently discovered show that the man charged by Hitler with "pacifying" the conquered British Isles was SS Major General Otto Ohlendorf, who was sentenced to death at Nuremberg in April 1948 and hanged in Landsberg prison on June 8th 1951, for his part in the liquidation of European Jewry.

In cooperation with the Supreme Command of the Wehrmacht, SS General Ohlendorf assembled, late in 1940, a staff of special agents, including "experts" such as those named on the opposite page. This staff was given the code name of "Action Group Liverpool".

One of the tasks of this staff, according to one of the documents which have now come to light, was to "secure and dispatch to Germany material on the administration etc. of the British colonies, which will be valuable for us in our future treatment of the German colonial areas."

On this page we reproduce extracts from an article printed in the "New York Times" dated July 29th 1945, based upon other nazi documents discovered at that time. These documents showed that most adult males in Britain were to be deported to the continent of Europe, and that all Britons impeding the "German war effort" were to be shot.

The nazi invasion of Germany never took place. But many of the generals who helped to draw up these plans are now back in the saddle in West Germany, waiting to take over control of a new West German Wehrmacht.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

Britain "Enemy Country"

"At a Christmas party for the employees of the German Embassy in London (in 1954), the hosts were Chargé D'affaires Oskar Schlitter and his wife Daisy... Herr Schlitter is no newcomer to London — he worked under Ambassador Ribbentrop in the German Embassy in London.

"Frau Daisy Schlitter held a speech lasting a quarter of an hour in the course of which she stated roughly: 'My husband and I often visit British homes, but we are on dangerous ground here after two world wars, and we are aware that we are in an enemy country... All of us of Germanic blood must hold together'."

"Spiegel" Newsmagazine, Hamburg, West Germany, January 5th 1955.

New York Times

New York, Sunday, July 29th, 1945

HAMBURG, Germany, July 28 (AP) — The German High Command's secret plan for the administration of Britain, which called for the deportation to the Continent of the male population between the ages of 17 and 45, is now in British hands.

A red-bound twenty-three page manuscript disclosed that Adolf Hitler planned to complete the occupation of Britain before Sept. 9 1940, and to transform the country and its resources into Germany's main war workshop...

Designed to prevent sabotage, the deportation provision presumably meant that Britons would have been farmed out on the Continent as slave laborers while German workers were rushed to Britain to keep the war machine operating with the minimum of interference.

Britain was to be divided into districts in charge of Army commanders, who were to have field and town units under them.

Under the list of administrative regulations the plan provided that any person in Britain impeding the German war effort by starting hostilities was to be treated as a guerilla and shot. Hostages were to be taken as a "security" measure. National laws in force prior to the German invasion were to be maintained only if they were not "contrary to the purposes of the occupation"...

Death sentences were to be assessed against persons who failed to turn in all radio transmitting apparatus and spare parts...

FROM THE NAZI ARCHIVES

(translation)

General:

1. The English **universities and colleges** (Oxford, Cambridge, Eton, Harrow etc.) are excellently fitted for the accomodation of **SS Troops.** They have large playing fields, dormitories and social rooms, and are well situated.

2. **Ireland** must also be occupied under all circumstances. The shortest distance separating England and Ireland is 20 kilometres. Many Englishmen will therefore attempt to escape in motor-boats.

3. Suitable persons for work in the SD (Security Service): The persons from Munich suitable for this work are:

Dr. Wirsing and Dr. Michael (MNN)

Dr. Kress (Lecturer at the German Academy in London)

Dr. Donald Stuart, editor of the south German "Sonntagspost" and SS Untersturmführer in the Security Service; particularly for museum and press questions.

Dr. Valjavec, member of the Security Service leadership in Munich, very good expert on South East European questions and English connections with the Balkans.

It may be useful to utilise personnel from the former German Embassy in London, and possibly to request a few good people from the Foreign Ministry.

4. Art Treasures:

A special staff is necessary for the **British Museum.** Germanic art works in the widest sense of the term (including Rubens and Rembrandt, etc.) must be sorted out. In addition, for reasons of foreign policy stolen works of art and science should be **returned to their former owners** (perhaps the Parthenon frieze to the Greeks, mummies to Egypt, other articles to Japan, South America, France? etc.)

It must be noted that the belongings of many noted persons **of a recent period** lie in the British Museum.

For **art treasures** the National Gallery in London and the Ashmolian Museum in Oxford are also important. For material from political archives there is the Museum of the Public Record Office, but also in particular the family archives in the country houses in England and Scotland. For instance the papers of the Chamberlains — see Garvin's biography of Joseph Chamberlain.

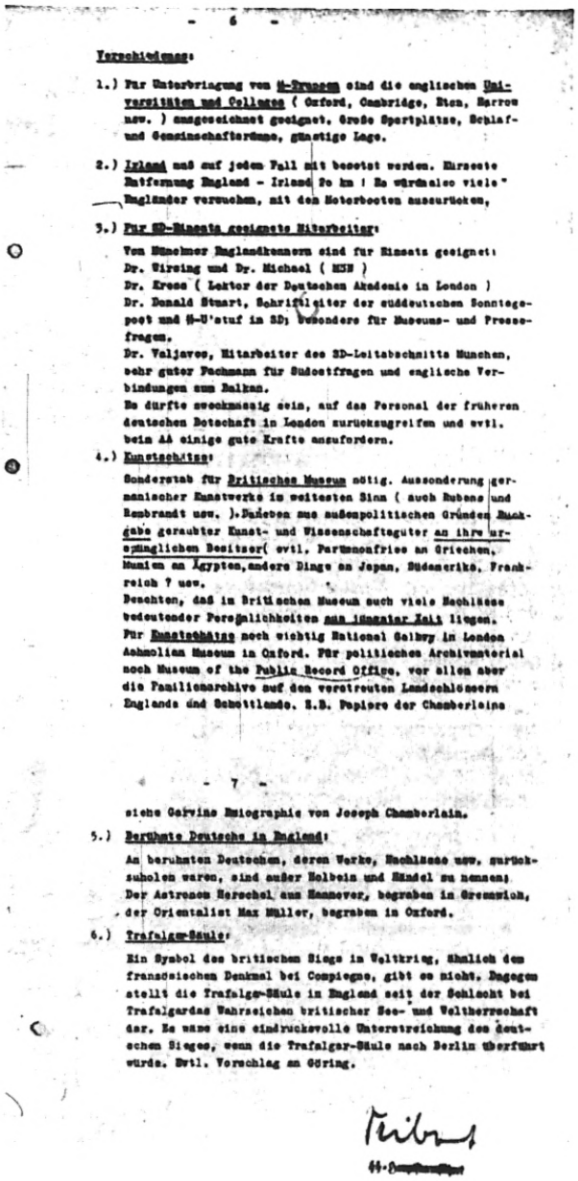
5. Famous Germans in England:

Famous Germans whose works and belongings must be brought home include, besides Holbein and Handel also the astronomer Herschel from Hanover, buried in Greenwich and the orientalist Max Müller, buried in Oxford.

6. Trafalgar Column:

There is no symbol of British victory in the world war, such as the French memorial near Compiegne. However, since the battle of Trafalgar the Trafalgar Column has been a symbol of British sea and world domination. It would be an impressive sign of German victory if the Trafalgar Column were to be transferred to Berlin. This might be suggested to Goering.

Seibert (?) SS Hauptsturmführer



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Verschiedenes:

1.) Für Unterbringung von SS-Truppen sind die englischen Universitäten und Colleges (Oxford, Cambridge, Eton, Harrow usw.) ausgezeichnet geeignet. Große Sportplätze, Schlaf- und Gemeinschaftsräume, günstige Lage.

2.) Irland muß auf jeden Fall mit besetzt werden. Kürzeste Entfernung England - Irland 20 km ! Es würden also viele Engländer versuchen, mit den Motorbooten auszurücken.

3.) Für SD-Einsatz geeignete Mitarbeiter:

Von Münchner Englandkennern sind für Einsatz geeignet:
Dr. Wirsing und Dr. Michael (MNN)
Dr. Kress (Lektor der Deutschen Akademie in London)
Dr. Donald Stuart, Schriftleiter der süddeutschen Sonntagspost und SS-Ustuf in SD; besonders für Museums- und Pressefragen.
Dr. Valjavec, Mitarbeiter des SD-Leitabschnitts München, sehr guter Fachmann für Südostfragen und englische Verbindungen zum Balkan.
Es dürfte zweckmäßig sein, auf das Personal der früheren deutschen Botschaft in London zurückzugreifen und evtl. beim AA einige gute Kräfte anzufordern.

4.) Kunstschätze:

Sonderstab für Britisches Museum nötig. Aussonderung germanischer Kunstwerke im weitesten Sinn (auch Rubens und Rembrandt usw.). Indiesen aus außenpolitischen Gründen Rückgabe geraubter Kunst- und Wissenschaftsgüter an ihre ursprünglichen Besitzer(evtl. Parthenonfries an Griechen, Mumien an Ägypten, andere Dinge an Japan, Südamerika, Frankreich ? usw.
Beachten, daß im Britischen Museum auch viele Nachlässe bedeutender Persönlichkeiten aus jüngster Zeit liegen.
Für Kunstschätze noch wichtig National Gallery in London Ashmolian Museum in Oxford. Für politischen Archivmaterial noch Museum of the Public Record Office, vor allem aber die Familienarchive auf den verstreuten Landschlössern Englands und Schottlands. Z.B. Papiere der Chamberleins

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siehe Garvins Biographie von Joseph Chamberlain.

5.) Berühmte Deutsche in England:

An berühmten Deutschen, deren Werke, Nachlässe usw. zurückzuholen wären, sind außer Holbein und Händel zu nennen: Der Astronom Herschel aus Hannover, begraben in Greenwich, der Orientalist Max Müller, begraben in Oxford.

6.) Trafalgar-Säule:

Ein Symbol des britischen Sieges im Weltkrieg, ähnlich dem französischen Denkmal bei Compiegne, gibt es nicht. Dagegen stellt die Trafalgar-Säule in England seit der Schlacht bei Trafalgar das Wahrzeichen britischer See- und Weltherrschaft dar. Es wäre eine eindrucksvolle Unterstreichung des deutschen Sieges, wenn die Trafalgar-Säule nach Berlin überführt würde. Evtl. Vorschlag an Göring.

Seibert
SS-Hauptsturmführer

(See comments on this document on opposite page)

WHAT CHURCHILL SAID IN 1940

"Here in our Island we are in good health and good heart. We have seen how Hitler prepared in scientific detail the plans for destroying the neighbour countries of Germany.

"We may therefore be sure that there is a plan, perhaps built up over years, for destroying Great Britain... All I can say is that any plan for invading Britain which he had made two months ago must have had to be entirely recast in order to meet our new position." — **Prime Minister Winston Churchill, in a broadcast speech on July 14th 1940.**

DO YOU WANT THESE MEN AS *YOUR* "COMRADES IN ARMS"?

Some of the Leaders of the New West German Wehrmacht

Schwerin

Lieutenant General Count Gerhard Schwerin

Corps Commander designate in new West German Wehrmacht. Member of planning department of nazi General Staff, and helped draw up plans for Second World War. Commanded nazi 116th Tank Division on eastern front.

Since the war has been military adviser to Chancellor Adenauer, and commander of paramilitary "German Service Organisation" in British Zone of Germany.

Holder of nazi "Knight's Cross with Laurels and Swords".

General Maximilian Freiherr von Edelsheim

Corps commander designate in new West German Wehrmacht.

Divisional commander of Wehrmacht on the eastern front during second world war. Has worked since the war as leading member of the "Gesellschaft fuer Wehrkunde" (Society for Military Science) in Munich, American Zone. This militaristic society was not dissolved by the American occupation authorities, despite precise stipulations to this effect in the Potsdam Agreement.

Holder of high nazi decoration "Knight's Cross with Laurels and Swords".

Major General Rudolf Christoph Freiherr von Gersdorff

Corps commander designate in new West German Wehrmacht.

Promoted by Hitler to the rank of Major General for special services rendered. Chief of intelligence on central section of eastern front during second world war.

Colonel Count Johann Adolf von Kielmannsegg

Designate military state secretary in West German War Ministry.

Worked in nazi general staff as assistant to General Heusinger (see next page.) Works at present as Chief of Section 1 of shadow West German General Staff, again as Heusinger's assistant.

Played a direct part in extermination campaign against partisans on the eastern front (see last paragraph of Heusinger biography on next page.)

Speidel

General Hans Speidel

Designated as liaison officer between new West German Wehrmacht and NATO.

Intimately concerned with illegal rearmament during the pre-Hitler Weimar Republic. In 1940 was appointed chief of staff of the nazi military commander in occupied France. Later transferred to eastern front as general staff officer of Wehrmacht Army Group "B", which was responsible for the destruction of hundreds of towns and villages in the Ukraine.

After the war he drew up the first provisional plans for West German rearmament, together with his brother, General Wilhelm Speidel, former nazi military governor in Greece, who was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for war crimes in Greece, but released by Americans in 1951.

General Wend von Wietersheim

Corps commander designate in new West German Wehrmacht.

Commanded the infamous "SS Ghost Division" on the central sector of the eastern front in 1941/42 and in the Ukraine in 1943. The "SS Ghost Division" was employed on "special duties", such as burning down villages alleged to harbour partisans, liquidating civilian population, etc. General von Wietersheim has been repeatedly described as "the type of really democratic General needed for the new Wehrmacht" in West German publications.

Entitled to wear nazi "Knight's Cross with Laurels and Swords" on his NATO uniform.

Major General Freiherr Smilo von Luettwitz

Corps commander designate in new West German Wehrmacht.

Under Hitler he commanded tank division in invasion of France, later played leading part in destruction of Warsaw. Still sought by Polish government as war criminal, but US authorities refuse to hand him over. Son of Imperial General Luettwitz who attempted to overthrow first German Republic in 1920 in Kapp-Putsch.

Since 1953 Luettwitz has been active as member of the officers' selection board maintained by the Blank Office, camouflaged West German War Ministry.

Awarded by Hitler second highest nazi decoration "Knight's Cross with Laurels and Swords".

Luettwitz

Cruewell

General Ludwig Cruewell

Commander in chief designate of new West German Wehrmacht.

Comes from old Prussian military family, and was prominent in building the illegal "black Reichswehr" during the pre-Hitler Weimar Republic. In 1941 he commanded a nazi tank division during the invasion of Yugoslavia. In 1942 he commanded a tank corps in the North African campaign.

Lieutenant General Adolf Heusinger

Chief of Staff of new West German Wehrmacht.

Chief of Operations on Hitler's General Staff. Played an important role in the nazi campaign against France in 1940, and in his book "Befehl im Widerstreit" (West Germany 1953) he blamed Hitler for not completely destroying the British Army at Dunkirk.

At present head of staff department of the Blank Office, West German camouflaged War Ministry. He expressed his strategic views in the magazine "Bonner Hefte" dated October 10th 1953, in which he wrote: "Attack whenever a chance presents itself. This is the method of fighting which the West should use in its encounters with the East."

Giving evidence at the Nuremberg trial of main war criminals in 1946, General Heusinger stated he had known about nazi atrocities, but claimed he had always been against them, not on humanitarian but on tactical grounds. He said:

"It was always my personal opinion that the treatment of the civil population in the area of operations and the method of fighting bandits (partisans, ed.) gave the supreme political and military leadership a welcome opportunity to carry out their aim of systematically reducing the Slav and Jewish races. I always regarded these cruel methods as a military foolishness, since they unnecessarily hampered the fight of our troops against the enemy."

Another leading nazi staff officer, General Horst Freiherr von Buttlar-Brandenfels, appearing before the Nuremberg Tribunal on June 1st 1946, commented on Heusinger's evidence in these words:

"I worked very closely together with General Heusinger, and very often spoke with him on the subject of war against the bandits. He never spoke to me in such terms about the subject and I can find no explanation for this statement of his, since it is in complete contradiction to the basic views of the military leadership on the way in which the war against the bandits had to be waged."

Another reference to Heusinger's wartime role was made in the declaration on oath submitted to the Nuremberg Tribunal by SS General Ernst Rode, chief of Himmler's staff. He stated:

"My task was to allocate the necessary forces to the high SS and police officers engaged in fighting the bandits, and to ensure that they had sufficient support from Wehrmacht forces. This task entailed direct conversations with the leading officers of the Wehrmacht leadership staff, that is to say with Generals Warlimont, von Buttlar, Guderian, Zeitzler, Heusinger, Wenk, and Colonels Count Kielmannsegg and von Bonin."

Colonel Gerhard Panitzki

Head of the Luftwaffe in the new West German armed forces.

Served during the second world war as colonel in the air branch of the Hitlerite general staff. Since the war has been on the permanent staff on the Blank Office, West German camouflaged war ministry, and in this capacity has organised the training in Britain and the United States of veteran nazi bomber pilots, and the reorganisation of the planning departments of plane construction firms such as Heinkel and Messerschmitt.

(From "Krokodil", Moscow)

Remember?

"Reliable information collected by Allied Governments clearly indicates that the Nazi regime in Germany has developed well arranged post-war plans for the perpetuation of Nazi doctrines and domination. Some of these plans have already been put into operation and others are ready to be launched on a widespread scale immediately upon termination of hostilities in Europe.

"Nazi party members, German industrialists, and the German military, realising that victory can no longer be attained, are now developing post-war commercial projects . . .

"This Government is now in possession of photostatic copies of several volumes of German plans on this subject. The German propaganda programme is to be an integral part of the over-all post-war program. The immediate aim of the propaganda program will be directed at removing Allied control measures by 'softening up' the Allies through a subtle plea for 'fair treatment' of Germans, and later the program will be expanded and intensified with the object of giving rebirth to Nazi doctrines and furthering German ambitions for world domination.

"Unless these plans are checked they will present a constant menace to post-war peace and security."

US State Department, March 30th 1945. Quoted from "Keesing's Archives", Britain, page 7213.

. . . ANOTHER GENERAL

Since the end of the war the French judicial authorities have been searching for Wehrmacht General Lammerding, commander of the SS Division "Das Reich", which was responsible for wiping out the village of Oradour and most of its inhabitants.

The French authorities want to put him on trial as a war criminal.

General Lammerding lives today in Wiesbaden, in the American Zone of Germany. He lives under the false name of Hans Braun, and works as a building director in the firm Guenther Wiederspan, 19 Augusta Strasse, Wiesbaden. The American and West German authorities were informed months ago of this fact, but have taken no sort of action to apprehend him and send him to France for trial.

WEST SPY CHIEF QUITS

Receives East German Asylum

The former head of the West German military intelligence organisation in West Berlin has fled to East Germany and received asylum there, the Ministry of the Interior of the German Democratic Republic announced on December 23rd.

The spy chief, 33-year old Jakob Kolb, brought with him important documents giving details of the activities of the espionage branch of the Blank Office, the camouflaged West German War Ministry, of which he had been Berlin chief. He also brought with him documents on the activities of the Gehlen Organisation, American-financed West German spy ring led by General Gehlen, formerly a leading nazi spy.

The East German Government granted asylum to Jakob Kolb. Asylum was refused to Friedrich Wilhelm Heinz, who until early in 1954 headed the central spy service of the Blank Office. Heinz came to East Berlin with Kolb on December 16th, and also requested asylum, but his request was turned down because of Heinz' past record, and particularly his part in the murder of German Foreign Minister Rathenau on June 24th 1922. (A full biography of Karl Friedrich Heinz was given in GERMAN REPORT dated December 11th 1953).

After being refused asylum Heinz returned to West Berlin, and tried to cover up his attempted defection by hawking a story about how he had been "kidnapped by the Russians" and subsequently escaped.

Here are the main points of the statement made by Jakob Kolb upon receiving asylum in the German Democratic Republic:

I am 33 years old, and from the year 1950 I was head of the intelligence branch of the Blank Office in West Berlin. The job with which this branch was charged was the establishment of a network of spies in the German Democratic Republic to collect military and economic information. I was given instructions to this effect in summer 1950 by General Schwerin, at that time head of what has become the Blank Office, and later by Herr Blank himself.

In my espionage post I met the other people employed in the Blank Office. I therefore know very thoroughly the plans of the West German Government with regard to remilitarisation, and the practical measures being taken to put these plans into effect.

Responsible circles in the Blank Office know very well that there is no danger of war from the east, but despite this they attempt to perpetuate the spectre of a military threat from the east.

For this reason reports coming in from our agents on the strength and the supply of Soviet military units, the type of report delivered by our Berlin branch to the Blank Office, are altered to show that such military units are much bigger than they are in reality. These forged reports are then presented by the West German Government to the western allies in negotiations on the rearmament of the Federal Republic.

Here is an example of this: in 1952 I was requested to confirm information which alleged that a number of Russian divisions had been brought via Poland and Czechoslovakia to Thuringia and deployed on the zonal frontier. After I had checked on these reports and informed the Blank Office that they did not correspond with the facts, I was called to Bonn. (General) Heusinger expressed his annoyance at my attitude, and insisted that these reports be confirmed under all circumstances.

They hope, by exaggerating the military strength of the Soviet Union, to win the approval of the western powers for the rearmament of Germany.

With the help of such manoeuvres and deceptions the Federal Government has managed to obtain agreement to the establishment of 12 divisions.

As the result of conversations which I have had with leading members of the intelligence branch of the Blank Office, such as Colonel Kirsch and Major Oster, I know that the Blank Office in its planning work regards the 12 divisions only as the basis for a further increase in the size of the forces in the near future.

The Blank Office has already assembled details of 14 age-groups, those from 16 to 30, a total of three million young men who can be called to the colours. The Conscription Bill being prepared lays down that the youths of 17 and 18 should be called up immediately, and that the selection commissions should act very severely.

Many facts make it possible to state that the military-political circles in West Germany intend to use the new army not only against the east, but also against the west.

For this reason, intelligence activities have begun in France, the Benelux states, Italy, Austria and Yugoslavia. In the Blank Office it is no secret that members of General Speidel's staff in Paris (attached to EDC and NATO headquarters, trans.) are engaged in espionage. This activity is organised by Colonel Wessel, a member of the Gehlen Intelligence Organisation, although he is officially a member of the staff of the Blank Office.

The intelligence service of the Blank Office directed against South Europe has its headquarters in Munich. The head of this office, General Staff Major Mueller, pseudonym Schulz, makes monthly trips to Italy and Austria. In Austria he has good connections with former officers of the German Wehrmacht.

In connection with the establishment of West German armed forces the Federal Government envisages a considerable strengthening of the intelligence services, which should be coordinated with the Gehlen Organisation as the core. Specialist sections will then be created, including, as one of the largest, a section directed against France and North Africa.

After the ratification of the Paris Agreements, Colonel Wessel will lead the intelligence work against France. For purposes of camouflage he will be attached to NATO headquarters in Paris.

One week ago, West German Chancellor Adenauer declared that the old militarist spirit was dead, but this was a flagrant lie. Already today the officers' corps of the coming army regards itself as a special caste with its own political rights. General Heusinger declared on one occasion that the future belonged to the military, and that they would exert the decisive influence on German life.

The older generation of generals and officers are, however, very disturbed by the fact that the West German youth show no enthusiasm for military service. Until now the applications received by the Blank Office have come mainly from former members of the Wehrmacht and the Waffen-SS. That is why the Blank Office grasps at all opportunities of educating young people in a military spirit.

All these developments led me to come to the German Democratic Republic and seek asylum here.

Berlin, December 22nd, 1954.

Nazi Camps Furnished Film "Extras"

Leni Riefenstahl, Hitler's film darling, who made the nazi film of the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, is back in circulation in West Germany, and West German cinemas are showing her film "Tiefland", made in 1941-42. For this film a number of Gipsy extras were needed. Frau Riefenstahl used her close connections with the SS to "borrow" a number of Gipsies — men, women and children — from the concentration camps where they had been herded.

After they had acted in the necessary scenes, the Gipsies were taken back to the concentration camps, and nearly all of them were later gassed at Auschwitz or other extermination camps.

When a progressive west German weekly "Die Tat", organ of nazi persecutees, recently printed these facts, Frau Riefenstahl obtained a court order forcing the paper to print her version of the facts. Her version was:

"The Gipsy extras used in Tiefland did not come from concentration camps. They came from welfare camps which had been especially constructed for them."

Whatever the camps were called, the occupants were sent to the gas chambers just the same, and Frau Riefenstahl is now pocketing the money which these victims of nazism earned for her.

P. S.: Frau Leni Riefenstahl is planning to go to Australia soon to start preliminary work on a grandiose film of the 1956 Olympic Games, similar to the film of the Berlin Olympics in 1936 which she made for Hitler.

Australian papers please note.

Democratic
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Book Review:

THE LIFE STORY OF NAZI CAMP COMMANDER

"Death is My Trade" by Robert Merle. Published by Verschoyle, London 12/6.

What made the nazi commander of a nazi extermination camp like Auschwitz tick? Why did he act like he did?

Many people must have asked themselves this question, and now French writer Robert Merle has tried to answer it. He has written, in the form of a novel, the biography of Rudolf Hoess (not to be confused with Hitler's deputy Hess) who built and ran Auschwitz Camp, in which several millions of Poles, Jews, Russians and other "subject races" were quite systematically done to death.

And he has done it with very great success. In this book Hoess, thinly disguised under the name of Rudolf Lang, tells his own story in his own words: he tells how he was brought up in a Prussian militarist family, and how he built his career step by step until he ended as quite literally the greatest mass murderer in history.

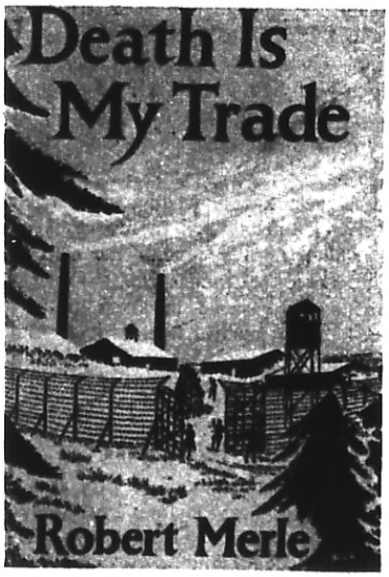
He has recreated with uncanny faithfulness the way in which Hoess acted, the way in which even when he was on trial for his life in Warsaw in 1947 he was still proud of his ability in organising his "death factory" so efficiently. Here are a few lines from the trial scene in this gripping and appalling book:

"The prosecutor exclaimed: 'You killed three and a half million persons!' I begged leave to speak, and I said: 'I beg your pardon, but I only killed two and a half million.' Murmurs broke out in the hall, and the prosecutor cried that I ought to be ashamed of my cynicism. Yet all I had done was to correct an inexact total."

It sounds incredible, but it actually happened like this. I was present at the trial as correspondent for Reuters News Agency and heard and reported this and many other exchanges such as this.

When the trial was over I had the revolting but unforgettable experience of interviewing Rudolf Hoess in the death cell. I asked Hoess if he had been satisfied with the way in which the trial had been conducted.

"Yes, in the main" he said. "There was one thing I must protest about, however. One of the prosecution witnesses said that we liquidated 80,000 people in one 24-hour period. This is of course untrue. The maximum capacity of our railway siding, our gas-chambers and our cremation ovens was only 20,000 persons per day."



And as he said it he stood up a little straighter, and his chest swelled with pride at the memory of the efficient way in which he had organised things.

Robert Merle's book is a horrifying indictment of the forces of German militarism and fascism which made these death camps possible.

But it is more than this. Hoess himself and a handful of other nazi criminals were executed for their crimes. But thousands of their colleagues are alive and active today, waiting for their chance to put on their old uniforms again.

If we allow this to happen it will only be a question of time before the acrid smoke is billowing once more from the tall chimneys of the cremation furnaces.

John Peet.

Belsen Guard Released

The British authorities in Germany released on December 24th 1954 the nazi concentration camp guard Curt Ernst Meyer, who had been sentenced to life imprisonment for torturing allied prisoners in Belsen concentration camp.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

In the last number of GERMAN REPORT I gave a short account on this page of some of the 400 men and women who sit in the People's Chamber, the parliament of the German Democratic Republic. It was an impressive list including many persons who had played a leading part in the fight against fascism in Germany and in other countries.

For contrast, I thought I would have a look this week at the West German Parliament. In my research I relied mainly upon the official Handbook of the German Federal Parliament, issued in Bonn in July 1954. This useful book gives biographies of the members, written by the members themselves.

Hush-hush Past

Unfortunately most of the members of the West German Parliament are very secretive about any association which they may have had with the nazi party. I was only able to find, in fact, two members who confessed to membership of the nazi party out of all the 509 deputies, though a large number of them were in fact members of Hitler's party.

I think I should give these two exceptions an "honourable mention" for honesty — they are Hermann Schwann, a member of the Free Democratic Party, and Count Henkel von Donnersmarck of the Christian Democratic Union.

But other former nazis who occupied leading posts — like Minister without Portfolio Waldemar Kraft, who was an SS officer; Refugee Minister Theodor Oberlaender who was a major in Hitler's storm troops; and many others of like calibre just ignore this not unimportant fact in detailing their careers.

Nazi Leader

There is, for instance, Philipp Meyer, Christian Democratic Deputy from Bavaria. He tells in his biography of his birth, his education and his service in the first world war. Then his biography jumps to 1945, and he details the posts he has held since then, including membership of the Provincial Synod of the Evangelical Church. What he forgets to state is that from 1933 to 1945 he was a full-time official of the Nazi Party, in the not unimportant post of "Kreis-Leiter" (District Leader). This fact came to light recently when he wrote an enthusiastic letter to his old Gauleiter Karl Wahl, commending him on a pro-nazi book of memoirs he had written.

Leafing through the handbook, I came to the conclusion that a very large proportion of the deputies in the West German Parliament are "hard-faced men who did well out of the war" either in industry, government service or a military career.

Here are some examples taken at random:

"Otto, Prince Bismark: Christian Democrat ... Entered Foreign Ministry in 1927 ... till 1936 Embassy Counsellor at German Embassy in London; January 1937 to Spring 1940 Director of Political Section of Foreign Office; Minister attached to German Embassy in Rome until August 1943."

"Dr. Dietrich Buerkel, Christian Democrat ... 1936 high official in Labour Ministry ... 1943 to 1945 Section Head in Gau Labour Office Duesseldorf". (The section of the Labour Office which he headed had the task of allotting foreign slave labourers to munitions factories.)

Regular Officer

"Alfred Burgemeister, Retired Colonel, Christian Democrat ... 1934 regular army officer. 1938 attended war academy in Berlin ... 1942 promoted to battalion commander. From June 1942 commanded infantry regiment on eastern front and Balkans ... At present deputy chairman of the Helmstedt branch of German Soldiers' Association."

"Dr. Hermann Conring, Christian Democrat ... during the Second World War Governor of the Province of Groningen, Holland."

"Dr. Fritz Czermak, BHE (Refugee Party) ... 1939 to 1942 Mayor of Olmuetz (occupied Czechoslovakia, ed.)."

"August-Martin Euler, Free Democrat ... August 1939 legal adviser to IG Farbenindustrie, and general administrator of the chemical branch, Berlin."

"Erwin Feller, BHE (Refugee Party) ... 1943 to 1944 attached to the chief of the civil administration in Alsace (occupied France, ed.)"

"Eduard Fiedler, BHE (Refugee Party) ... 1938 to 1945 Mayor of Komotau (occupied Czechoslovakia, ed.)"

"Hellmuth Guido Alexander Heye, Christian Democrat ... Active naval officer until 1945, lastly as commander of heavy cruiser 'Admiral Hipper' ... Expert on the building of defence organisation and on military political questions."

Fuller Story

The next deputy deserves rather fuller treatment. He is Dr. Paul Leverkuehn, Christian Democrat, and a leading member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Parliament. According to his own biography, he was sent on a "mission" to the Persian-Turkish frontier in 1915—16 in the middle of the First World War on the orders of the General Staff and the Foreign Ministry. Between the wars he was a banker in New York and official of the German Embassy in Washington.

And here are some more facts about him, in his own words: "1939 Supreme Army Command. 1940 Consul in Taebris, Persia: 1941 sent by the Foreign Ministry to Paris. 1941 to 1944 assistant of the military attache at the German Embassy in Turkey. 1944 legal plenipotentiary of the Deutsche Weapon and Munition Works. 1948 Defence Counsel in case against Supreme Wehrmacht Command in Nuremberg ... Holder of the Great Service Cross of the Federal Republic."

And So We Leave ...

And I think on that note we can leave, without any regret, our short study of the men who sit in the West German Parliament, the men who will nominally be allowed to control the new West German Wehrmacht as long as the generals let them.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet, Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8. Telephone: 22 62 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veroffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 Berlin Presseamt des Ministerprasidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik